

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A filter assembly comprising:
a center support having a filter head attachment adjacent one end,
a bowl attachment adjacent an opposite end, and a plurality of radial openings
disposed in said center support and being located between said ends; and
a metallic screen filter element mounted around said center
support.
2. The filter assembly of claim 1 including a bowl attached to said
bowl attachment.
3. The filter assembly of claim 2 including a filter head attached
to said filter head attachment; and
an annular seal between said bowl and said filter head.
4. The filter assembly of claim 3 wherein said center support
includes a plastic center tube.
5. The filter assembly of claim 4 including a first end cap in
contact with said metallic screen and said center support adjacent said one end;
and
a second end cap in contact with said metallic screen and said
center support adjacent said opposite end.
6. The filter assembly of claim 5 wherein said first and second
end caps are removably attached to said center support.

7. The filter assembly of claim 1 including a hydrophobic coating on said metallic screen filter element.

8. The filter assembly of claim 3 wherein said center support is permanently affixed to said metallic screen filter element;
whereby said center support is necessary for connecting said bowl in sealing contact with said filter head.

9. A plurality of engines comprising:
a portion of said engines including a filter assembly according to claim 1; and
another portion of said engines including a filter assembly with a paper filter element.

10. The engines of claim 9 wherein said filter assembly of each engine includes an identical center support.

11. The engines of claim 10 wherein said identical center support includes a center tube.

12. A method of servicing a filtration portion of a fluid system for an engine, comprising the steps of:
detaching a center support from a filter head;
detaching the center support from a bowl;
washing a metallic screen filter element which is attached to the center support;
re-attaching the center support to the bowl; and
re-attaching the center support to the filter head.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said washing step includes the steps of:

- detaching the metallic screen filter element from the center support;
- cleaning the metallic screen filter element; and
- re-attaching the metallic screen filter element to a center support.

14. A method of servicing a filtration portion of a fluid system for an engine, comprising the steps of:

- detaching a center support from a filter head;
- detaching the center support, which is attached to one of a paper filter element and a metallic screen filter element, from a bowl;
- attaching a replacement center support, which is attached to an other of a paper filter element and a metallic screen filter element, to the bowl;
- and
- attaching the replacement center support to the filter head.